



Academic Overview – 8th Grade

Bible: Summit Ministry Lightbearers is a worldview and apologetics curriculum. The class is designed to help students understand and engage the culture for Christ and to view the world from a Biblical perspective.

Textbook: *Lightbearers*, 3rd edition. Summit Ministries.

How to be Your Own Selfish Pig (and other ways you've been brainwashed)

Language Arts

Writing and Grammar: Students master grammar and composition skills through guided instruction, as well as through significant writing projects. Students work in small groups with grammar, taking ownership of the knowledge and learning how to apply it to their own writing. They write in-depth research projects, explore narrative writing and reflective essays, and create together a well-crafted, multimedia book report. Students also use the writing workshop method, including editing and revising each other's writing through multiple drafts.

Textbook: *Grammar & Composition II*. Abeka.

Reading: Students will appreciate all components of language from a Christian worldview. They will deepen their ability to comprehend and critique a wide variety of literature through assigned and independent reading and extensive class discussion. Reading response, drama and journaling enhance students' engagement with literature. Cultivating a lifelong love for literature is a key goal of the program.

Novels: *Son of Hamas*, *Call of the Wild* and *The Hiding Place*

Textbook: *Excursions in Literature*. BJU.

Spelling: Students will gain a broader understanding of the etymology and spelling of words through the context of their novels by exploring root words, prefixes and suffixes. In addition, students will start to grasp the different use of words throughout genres and time periods. Vocabulary enrichment activities and assignments will enhance their written and oral expression.

Textbook: Novels as above

Pre-Algebra: Students begin the school year by reviewing concepts from Math 7 to prepare for Pre-Algebra. Students then learn and develop the fundamental tools of Algebra, including operations with Integers and rational numbers, multi-step equations, linear and nonlinear functions and graphing. Lastly, students will touch on Geometry concepts, such as distance and angle; surface area and volume. Students practice these concepts and skills as a class, in group or partner work, with games or projects and with individual white boards.

Textbook: *Pre-Algebra*. Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Algebra I: Students will complete the requirements of Algebra I to receive high school credit. They will understand the language of Algebra while they solve problems involving rational numbers and integers.

Students will solve and graph linear equations and inequalities. They will understand how to add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials. They will be able to factor quadratic and exponential functions. Students will understand the properties of a triangle and how to use the distance formula, the Pythagorean Theorem, and trigonometric ratios. Students will practice these concepts and skills individually and in groups using games, projects, whiteboards and specific practice materials.

Textbook: *Algebra I*. Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Science: Students are introduced to the concepts of Physics, focusing on matter and energy. Concepts are reinforced within each unit with lab work and readings. Formulas are examined and used to find answers to simple problems of motion, mechanical advantage, density, conservation of energy, and electromagnetic energy. Effort is made to expose students to up to date concepts appearing in the news or scientific research.

Textbook: *Introduction to Physical Science*. Glencoe, 2002.

Spanish: Students will complete the requirements of Spanish I to earn a high school credit. The course focuses on developing a beginning proficiency in the Spanish language. All domains of language, including writing, reading, listening, speaking, vocabulary development and grammar are incorporated into the course. Students also explore Spanish culture and memorize Scripture verses in Spanish.

Textbook: *Spanish I - ¡Avancemos!*. Holt McDougal.

Civics: Students will complete the requirements of Civics 8. They will understand both the form and function of the United States Constitution and the American government. Study will include the origins of the ideas that helped create our Constitution as well as its intended function. They will learn through discussion, notes, debates, and mock trial.

Textbook: *American Government*, Bob Jones University Press 3rd edition.

Health: Study of the three main areas of health, spiritual, mental/social, and physical, is emphasized. An individual project requiring introspection and application of the learned concepts is assigned for each unit. The class meets once per week for the whole year.

Textbooks: McGee, Robert S. *The Search for Significance*.

Boe, Susan. *Total Health. Choices for a Winning Lifestyle*. BJU.

MyPlate.com and other nutritional basics

Specials: Music (chorus and handbells), P.E.

Electives: Art, Band, Creative Writing, Drama, Guitar, Sports Club, Technology, Worship Team

Additional Activities and Field Trips:

- Operation Christmas Child Processing Center Service Trip
- Spring trip to Washington, DC
- ACSI Regional Competitions: Spelling Bee, Math Olympics, Creative Writing Festival, ACSI Music Festival, Kings Dominion Music Festival
- Middle School Retreat